

THE CITY OF WICHITA



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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December 28, 1976

The Honorable Mayor and
Board of City Commissioners
City of Wichita
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Commissioners:

Presented herewith as specified by State law is the 1977 annual operating budget for the City of Wichita. This program of service as adopted can be financed within the State tax limitation law. The program requires a mill levy of 37.658 mills, which when compared to the mill levy requirement for 1976 represents an increase of 3.302 mills. However, Commissioners should recall the General Debt and Interest Fund required an increase of 3.222 mills, consequently, all other taxing funds of the City require a mill levy basically identical to the adopted 1976 budget.

It is interesting to point out that the major "operating" taxing funds of the City require a mill levy for the 1977 budget of 20.345 mills which is actually 1.045 mills less than the mill levy required to finance these same operating funds in the 1970 budget. Consequently, the mill levy requirement for the operating funds of the City over a period of seven years has decreased while during this same period of time the consumer price index has risen approximately 54%.

The development of the 1977 budget was hampered by the uncertainty of Congressional action relating to the extension of the Revenue Sharing program. Throughout the development of the budget, Congress had taken no action on the extension of the Revenue Sharing Bill, therefore, the budget was developed contingent on the successful passage and extension of the Revenue Sharing Act.

With Congressional approval of the Revenue Sharing program, it was possible by utilizing Revenue Sharing funds to offset taxes to adopt an operating budget within the State tax lid law and still provide certain program improvements. A list of the more important program improvements included within this 1977 budget are listed as follows:

Increased tax support in the amount of \$160,755 for the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

The addition of two positions previously funded by CETA to the staff of the Industrial Development Office.

A reduction in the work week for the Fire Department from 55.07 hours to 54 hours.

The addition of an Assistant Plans Examiner for the Central Inspection Division to expedite plans examination.

Funds are provided for the City to initiate a Noxious Weed Spraying program in the Spring of 1977.

Two positions previously funded through CETA have been added to the recently reorganized Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Office.

An Administrative Aide position for the Wichita Commission on the Status of Women which previously had been funded through CETA funds has been included in the General Fund of the budget.

Additional positions are provided for the Library for the opening of the joint library operations in Planeview.

Four new positions have been added for the opening of the new Art Museum scheduled for June of 1977.

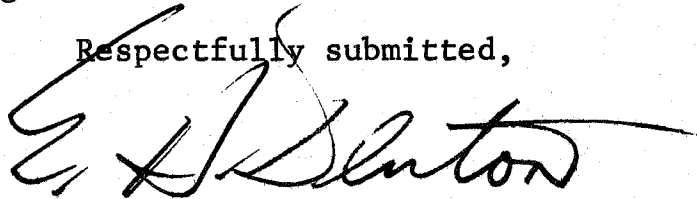
Funds are provided for the continuation of programs which were funded previously by Revenue Sharing funds for the Board of Park Commissioners which includes a Hyde Park Caretaker; new facilities; outdoor recreation - nature program; and special recreation for the handicapped.

In addition to the program improvements noted above, the 1977 budget contains funds which will enable the City of Wichita to remain competitive in the local job market by providing a six percent across the board salary increase for all City employees.

I would point out for the Commission the 1977 budget does establish for administrative budgetary purposes the Department of Emergency Communications. The department budget as established contains funds originally budgeted within the Fire and Police Departments coupled with funds budgeted within the adopted 1977 budget for Sedgwick County. The budget has been established and presented within this document for ease in administration when the consolidation is finalized.

City administrators involved in the preparation and development of the City's operating budget have been aware for several years that if inflation continued and significant alternate sources of revenues were not forthcoming, it would be impossible to maintain existing levels of service and still finance the budget within the State imposed property tax limitation. A continued effort must be required by urban administrators to obtain alternate State and/or local revenues to finance future budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. H. Denton", written in a cursive style.

E. H. Denton
City Manager

EHD/dts

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